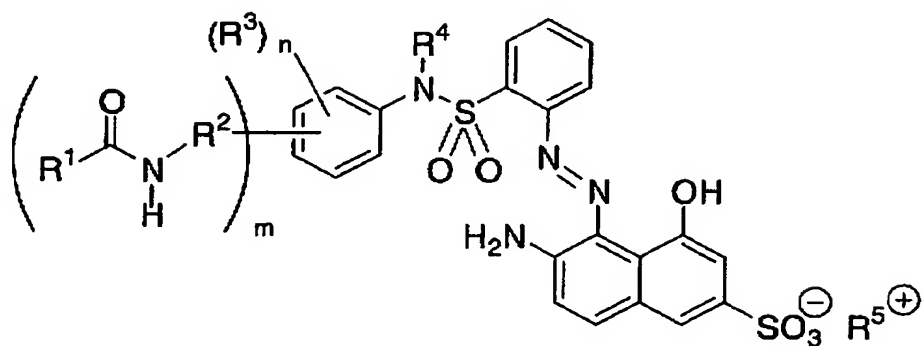


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An azo compound represented by the following general formula (I):

General formula (I)

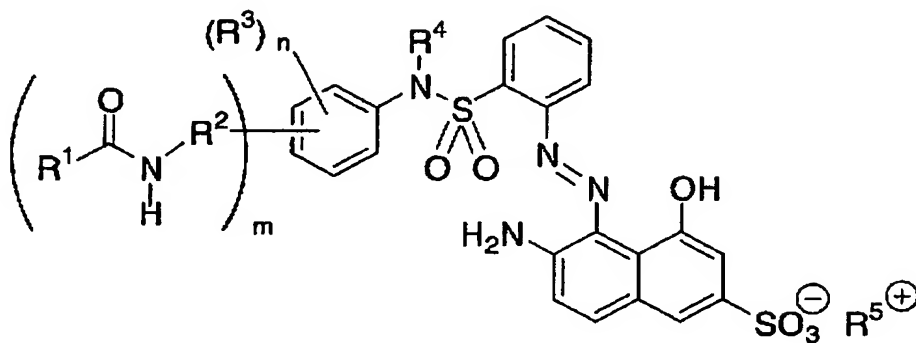


wherein R^1 represents a C_{1-21} alkyl, a C_{1-10} perfluoroalkyl, a C_{2-21} alkenyl, a C_{1-21} aryl, a C_{1-21} aralkyl, a C_{1-21} alkylamino, a C_{1-21} aralkylamino, a C_{1-21} arylamino, methacryloylamino, or ethoxycarbonylamino; R^2 represents a single bond, $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$; R^3 represents hydrogen, a C_{1-21} alkyl, a halogen, a hydroxyl, or a C_{1-21} alkoxy; R^4 represents a C_{1-21} alkyl, a C_{2-21} alkenyl, a C_{1-21} aryl, or a C_{1-21} aralkyl; R^5 represents hydrogen, a metal cation, or a cation of a nitrogen-containing compound; m denotes an integer of 1 or 2; and n denotes an integer from 0 to 4.

2. A colorant-containing curable composition

comprising: a binder and a colorant, wherein the colorant contains an azo compound represented by the following general formula (I):

General formula (I)



wherein R¹ represents a C₁₋₂₁ alkyl, a C₁₋₁₀ perfluoroalkyl, a C₂₋₂₁ alkenyl, a C₁₋₂₁ aryl, a C₁₋₂₁ aralkyl, a C₁₋₂₁ alkylamino, a C₁₋₂₁ aralkylamino, a C₁₋₂₁ arylamino, methacryloylamino, or ethoxycarbonylamino; R² represents a single bond, -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, or -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-; R³ represents hydrogen, a C₁₋₂₁ alkyl, a halogen, a hydroxyl, or a C₁₋₂₁ alkoxy; R⁴ represents hydrogen, a C₁₋₂₁ alkyl, a C₂₋₂₁ alkenyl, a C₁₋₂₁ aryl, or a C₁₋₂₁ aralkyl; R⁵ represents hydrogen, a metal cation, or a cation of a nitrogen-containing compound; m denotes an integer from 0 to 2; and n denotes an integer from 0 to 4.

3. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 2, wherein the binder contains an alkali-soluble

(meth)acrylic resin.

4. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 2, wherein the binder contains an alkali-soluble (meth)acrylic resin having a polymerizable side chain.

5. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 2, further comprising a (meth)acrylic ester type polymerizable compound.

6. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 5, wherein the polymerizable compound contains a tetra- or higher functional (meth)acrylic ester type monomer.

7. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 2, further comprising a photopolymerization initiator.

8. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 7, wherein the photopolymerization initiator contains at least one compound selected from the group consisting of trihalomethyltriazine compounds, benzyl dimethyl ketal compounds, α -hydroxyketone compounds, α -aminoketone compounds, phosphine oxide compounds, metallocene compounds, oxime compounds, triallylimidazole dimers, benzothiazole type compounds, benzophenone compounds, acetophenone compounds and

derivatives thereof, cyclopentadiene-benzene-iron complexes and salts thereof, halomethyloxadiazole compounds, and 3-aryl-substituted cumarin compounds.

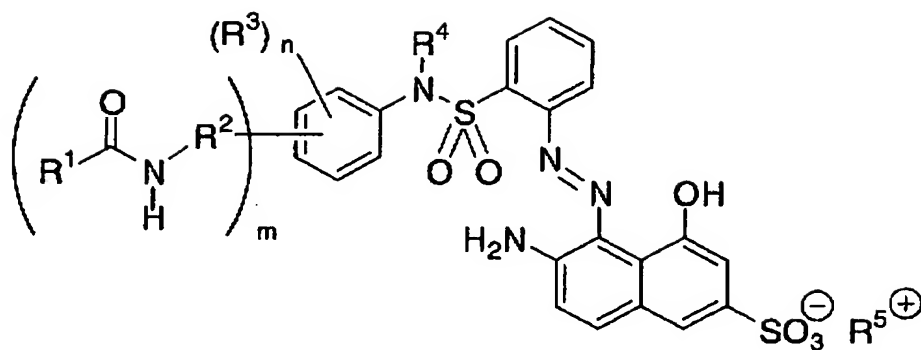
9. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 7, wherein the photopolymerization initiator contains at least one compound that generates no acid due to decomposition.

10. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 7, wherein the photopolymerization initiator contains at least one compound selected from the group consisting of α -aminoketone compounds, phosphine oxide compounds, metallocene compounds, oxime compounds, and triallylimidazole dimers.

11. A colorant-containing curable composition according to claim 2, further comprising a cross-linking agent.

12. A color filter comprising a colorant-containing curable composition comprising: a binder and a colorant, wherein the colorant contains an azo compound represented by the following general formula (I):

General formula (I)



wherein R^1 represents a C_{1-21} alkyl, a C_{1-10} perfluoroalkyl, a C_{2-21} alkenyl, a C_{1-21} aryl, a C_{1-21} aralkyl, a C_{1-21} alkylamino, a C_{1-21} aralkylamino, a C_{1-21} arylamino, methacryloylamino, or ethoxycarbonylamino; R^2 represents a single bond, $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, or $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$; R^3 represents hydrogen, a C_{1-21} alkyl, a halogen, a hydroxyl, or a C_{1-21} alkoxy; R^4 represents hydrogen, a C_{1-21} alkyl, a C_{2-21} alkenyl, a C_{1-21} aryl, or a C_{1-21} aralkyl; R^5 represents hydrogen, a metal cation, or a cation of a nitrogen-containing compound; m denotes an integer from 0 to 2; and n denotes an integer from 0 to 4.

13. A color filter according to claim 12, wherein the binder contains an alkali-soluble (meth)acrylic resin.

14. A color filter according to claim 12, wherein the binder contains an alkali-soluble (meth)acrylic resin having a polymerizable side chain.

15. A color filter according to claim 12, wherein the colorant-containing curable composition further comprises a (meth)acrylic ester type polymerizable compound.

16. A color filter according to claim 15, wherein the polymerizable compound contains a tetra- or higher functional (meth)acrylic ester type monomer.

17. A color filter production method comprising:

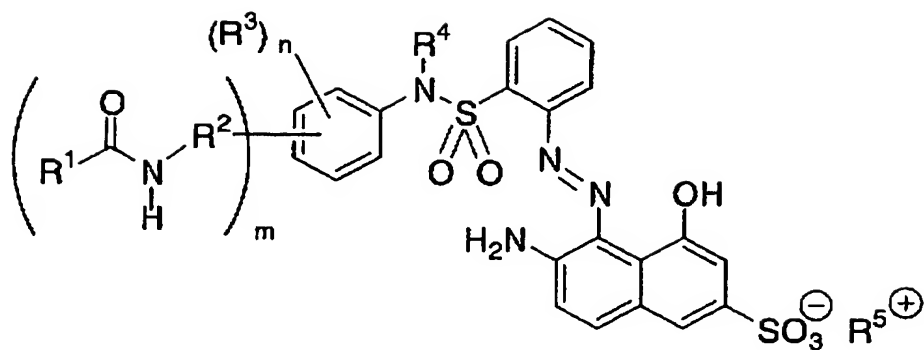
providing a colorant-containing curable composition that includes a binder and a colorant, wherein the colorant includes an azo compound represented by the following general formula (I),

applying the composition to a support;

exposing the composition through a mask; and

developing the exposed composition to form a pattern image,

General formula (I)



wherein, R^1 represents a C_{1-21} alkyl, a C_{1-10} perfluoroalkyl, a C_{2-21} alkenyl, a C_{1-21} aryl, a C_{1-21} aralkyl, a C_{1-21} alkylamino, a C_{1-21} aralkylamino, a C_{1-21} arylamino, methacryloylamino, or ethoxycarbonylamino; R^2 represents a single bond, $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, or $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$; R^3 represents hydrogen, a C_{1-21} alkyl, a halogen, a hydroxyl, or a C_{1-21} alkoxy; R^4 represents hydrogen, a C_{1-21} alkyl, a C_{2-21} alkenyl, a C_{1-21} aryl, or a C_{1-21} aralkyl; R^5 represents hydrogen, a metal cation, or a cation of a nitrogen-containing compound; m denotes an integer from 0 to 2; and n denotes an integer from 0 to 4.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the colorant-containing curable composition further comprises a photopolymerization initiator.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the photopolymerization initiator contains at least one compound selected from the group consisting of trihalomethyltriazine

compounds, benzyl dimethyl ketal compounds, α -hydroxyketone compounds, α -aminoketone compounds, phosphine oxide compounds, metallocene compounds, oxime compounds, triallylimidazole dimers, benzothiazole type compounds, benzophenone compounds, acetophenone compounds and derivatives thereof, cyclopentadiene-benzene-iron complexes and salts thereof, halomethyloxadiazole compounds, and 3-aryl-substituted cumarin compounds.

20. The method according to claim 18, wherein the photopolymerization initiator contains at least one compound that generates no acid due to decomposition.